

The form of presentation is that of the "Socratic inquiry," in which questions put by a hypothetical impartial enquirer whose object is to ascertain whether laymen should be allowed to practice psychoanalysis are answered by the author. Naturally, no questions will be asked that Freud did not feel competent to answer in a favorable light, but nevertheless in the course of the inquiry much can be gained of insight into both psychoanalysis and its founder. The physician will be well repaid for an hour or so devoted to the perusal of this book.

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MALARIA—THE BIOGRAPHY OF A KILLER. By Leon J. Warshaw, M.D. Rinehart & Company, New York, 1949. \$3.75.

This agreeable book is a well written and none-too-accurate account of certain phases of malariology written for popular perusal with rather a dearth of scientific emphases and fact. It is an entertaining disquisition on certain selected by-paths and historical associations of malaria, not complete and detailed enough to tempt the medical or scientific reader, and not perfused with the original philosophy and broad integrative analysis of a Zinsser. It seems to be the product of an author quite out of touch with the social and historical story of malaria. It is to be commended for the medical reader who wishes a pleasing presentation of part of the tremendous record of malaria, and does not object if that presentation is unbalanced or lacking in systematic coverage. The undue space given cinchona and quinine suggests library review rather than living acquaintance with the subject.

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PHYSIOLOGY OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. By John Farquhar Fulton, O.B.E., M.D., D.Sc., LL.D., Sterling Professor of Physiology, Yale University. Third Edition, Revised. New York, Oxford University Press, 1949. \$10.00.

The justification for a third edition of this now standard American text on neurophysiology is well presented by the author in the preface, where those changes and additions worthy of note are outlined. They are, in brief, the discovery of the secondary motor and sensory areas in the cortex, the importance of the reticular formation, the role of the orbital surface of the frontal lobes and the cingulate gyrus in autonomic function, functional localization in the anterior cerebellum, and the importance of rate of stimulation on the character of response.

This book, as it has passed through succeeding editions, has lost some of the personal bias of the author and become more truly representative of general thought in neurophysiology. In this regard, reading the section dealing with transmission of the nerve impulse across the synapse has much interest, showing as it does the author's changing opinion on the subjects, brought about by closer association with those who have developed the theory of humoral transmission.

Although rather bulky and complex for the student, there is no comparable work in English for use as a student text. It is of even greater value as a reference, and this has been enhanced by being brought again up to date.

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PHYSIOLOGY OF THE UTERUS. By S. R. M. Reynolds, M.A., Ph.D., Staff Member, Physiologist, Department of Embryology, Carnegie Institution of Washington. Second Edition. Paul B. Hoeber, Inc., New York, 1949. \$12.50.

The first edition of this excellent book appeared in 1939 and contained a bibliography of 1,190 items. The new edition is a much larger volume, both in number and size of pages, and the total list of references approaches 2,500. There has been a marked change in the organization of the book, the second edition containing eight major divisions instead of 13 chapters as in the original work. The various

parts contain anywhere from one to nine chapters and the bibliography appears sectionally at the end of each of the eight parts. The subject headings scattered through the bibliographic pages are a great help and this feature of the new edition is a decided improvement. A good deal of new material has been added, particularly with regard to human tokography using strain-gauge dynamometers, steroid hormones during pregnancy, experiments in the production of abnormal types of uterine growth, myometrial forces in parturition, vasculature of the uterus, and placental exchange. The chapters on menstruation and on fetal circulation have been expanded, and there is additional discussion of factors determining fetal maturity at birth and uterine accommodation to the gestational product. Virtually all of the illustrations are new.

It is obviously impossible to describe the subject matter of such a comprehensive volume in a few words. Suffice it to say that the book covers its stated subject in a thorough and admirable fashion. Besides a mere recitation of the recorded facts, it contains excellent interpretations of the data presented and the whole is written in a lucid and pleasing style by an authority of first rank. The publisher has done a splendid job with the printing and reproduction of the illustrations. In brief, this is a superb volume and one which should be read by all who are interested in obstetrics, gynecology, physiology or endocrinology. Owners of the first edition will not need to be urged to buy the second, which for all practical purposes is an entirely new book. Those who may have overlooked the first edition should procure the new one without delay.

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THE DEVELOPMENT OF GYNAECOLOGICAL SURGERY AND INSTRUMENTS—A Comprehensive Review of the Evolution of Surgery and Surgical Instruments for Treatment of Female Diseases from the Hippocratic Age to the Antiseptic Period. By James V. Ricci, M.D., Clinical Professor of Obstetrics, New York Medical College. The Blakiston Company, Philadelphia, 1949. \$12.00.

Your reviewer has not had an easy time to work his way through the 594 pages of the archaic and neo-archaic substance that fills this recent compilation of historical data from the pen of James V. Ricci, to whom this kind of literary pursuit seems to have a particular attraction. At best it is a dry and musty job to dig up a multitude of details heavily dimmed by a long and almost forgotten past that bears rather lightly on the present, and historical data pertaining to the practice of gynecology are no exception. In turning out such an opus the author has done a good job at digging up facts. In his preface he states that it is with some diffidence that he presents his text to the reader, lamenting that the present generation of gynaecologists (author's spelling) "struggling for progress, and in truth taxed to keep up with the ever increasing knowledge loosed by new drugs and operative technics, has seemingly turned its back on the past. However, it is believed, that there is something of value for gynaecologists with leisure and taste in the historical background of their specialty." To which your reviewer adds a faint "Amen," after lamenting on his own that it is not new drugs and the steady flow of new techniques which make gynecologists look to the present at the expense of the past, but the habit of modern man to bury the past six fathoms deep hardly before it has breathed its last sigh, for the days of leisure, and perhaps of taste, are mighty few in this fast age, obiter dictum.

In presenting *The Development of Gynaecological Surgery and Instruments* to the profession, Ricci has gone well beyond the intended scope of the essay by delving deeply into the many forms of general therapy employed by the ancients. It seems quite evident that he did so to emphasize more forcefully the development of certain methods and traditions in gynecology. After completing the perusal of the book,